

Springfield Public School District 186



## Iles School News

1700 South Fifteenth Street, Springfield, IL 62703

Mrs. Susan Rhodes, Principal 217-525-3226

<http://www.springfield.k12.il.us/schools/iles/>


Iles School

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### April 8

Starter Strings 3:00 p.m.

#### April 9

Writer's Conference

#### April 15

#### SPRING PICTURES

Starter Strings 3:00 p.m.

PTO Pizza Hut Fundraiser

#### April 15 - 23

Stanford 10 Test -  
Second Grades only

#### April 22

Starter Strings 3:00 p.m.

#### April 26

**No School -  
Teacher In-Service**

#### April 29

Starter Strings 3:00 p.m.

#### May 3

Birds of Prey - 10:00 a.m.

#### May 4, 6 & 7

Kindergarten Open House  
12:45 p.m.

#### May 25

Vocal Music Program  
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

### Congratulations to Iles 4th Grade Teacher

#### Mrs. Barb Thompson!

Mrs. Thompson is one of the five finalists for the District 186  
Horace Mann Educator of the Year award!

#### April News

by Mrs. Susan Rhodes,  
Iles School Principal

I hope everyone enjoyed their spring break. The great weather makes us all very anxious for summer. We have a lot of great learning opportunities planned for our students in the remaining weeks.

The Seventh Annual Iles Writing Conference is this Friday, April 9. We are all very excited as we work together to write a children's book entitled *The Magic Aglet*. The theme of our conference is "From Me to We" to serve as an example of the power that children have when they work together. Once this book is published, a proceeds of the sales will benefit children who are in need. Mr. Trevor Romain, an internationally recognized children's motivational speaker is coming to Iles at absolutely no cost. He is volunteering both his time and his travel expenses from Austin, Texas. Iles School is grateful for Mr. Romain's continued support of our learning and sharing with others. We have over twenty-five adults who are volunteering their time that day to share their writing expertise with our students. As a small token of our appreciation we are providing a lunch for them. **We are asking each child to bring \$3 to help with the conference expenses.**

As an extra incentive, I have promised each class with over 80% of their classmates turning in their registration fees, on or before Friday, a longer recess next week.

In addition to the writing conference, each classroom continues to work through their units of inquiry that have been developed this year as a part of the authorization process of the International Baccalaureate program. We all appreciate the supportive roles that parents play in the inquiry process to support the learning in our classrooms.

Our first year of offering Chinese instruction has provided us with additional opportunities for our children to learn more about the Chinese culture from other resources within our community. Three professors from UIS visited our school last month. Two of the professors are from China and are eager to provide us with additional assistance. In the next couple of weeks we plan to host fourteen teachers from China. They want to spend two days at Iles School. These teachers teach high school English in China. Mr. McParland has also been having Mrs. Carrie Woollen "shadow" him on Mondays and Fridays. Mrs. Woollen moved to Springfield several months ago from China. She taught English in China for twelve years and

has a lot to share with our students as she learns about our school. I truly hope that you and your child are enjoying all of the learning opportunities that take place at Iles School. The staff at Iles School work hard to provide the very best for your children.

### **Student Support News** by Mrs. Sherry Frachey

Great news!

Our school O Ambassador Club is being featured in the international *Free the Children* newsletter! Profile: Iles Elementary, Springfield, IL

“Breaking Barriers Everyday: the all-star crew at Iles Elementary”

Iles Elementary School is an urban, inner city school with over 21 different cultures represented in the student population. Even though Iles has over 25% of the students receive the school meal program – they never let their challenges become a barrier to social change!

Iles’ group is led under the enthusiastic direction of the school’s student support teacher, Sherry Frachey. Ms. Frachey has encouraged and supported Iles students to “Think We”; to think larger than themselves and to take action to make a difference both locally and globally.

#### ***Local & Global Initiatives***

Iles students donate their lunch recess for club meetings to develop and plan fundraisers. This year the group chose to support Free The Children projects in China!

The club activities are super creative. They include a kick off week each year with fun theme days – last year it was a “hat day”. Others

have included: “Pennies from Heaven”, talent shows, and they also have a Fair Trade Store. Students wanted to create the Fair Trade store after learning about child labor. Students in the 5th and 6th grades had to develop a business plan, budget, do the ordering and selling, and count and deposit the money for the store. Recently, Mr. Marcy, the art teacher, had the students design and create “Houses for Haiti”; small, colorful pins that looked like houses, which he donated to sell at the Fair Trade Store. Proceeds benefitted rescue work in Haiti.

In February, Iles had the Think We! tour visit their school. The Think We! tour works in partnership with Club Penguin to bring a fun-filled speaking tour to elementary schools to empower students to take action to make change in their schools and communities. In true Iles fashion, they took the Think We! idea and ran with it. They created a whole “Think We! Day”! Check out Iles “Think We! Day” video here:

<http://www.springfield.k12.il.us/teachers/frachey/video/?b=12&v=2437>.

Tour speakers, Stephen and Leah – who have traveled all over the world to spread the Think We! message – say that they have never seen, “such beautiful anarchy” as that at Iles and that the students and teachers at Iles “are \*stars\*.”

Also, the Iles Club participates in local projects, within their community of Springfield, IL. They have helped out senior centers, women’s shelters, the local St. John’s Breadline, Contact Ministries and The American Red Cross.

#### ***Annual Writer’s Conference***

Every year Iles Elementary hosts a Writer’s Conference. It is an event that hosts writers from all across North America and helps students to think and write creatively. Yoko Ono

has even featured the Writers Conference on her [www.imaginepeace.com](http://www.imaginepeace.com) website! This year the Writers Conference will take place on April 9th and is based on the “Me to We” philosophy. Check out the “Me to We” philosophy here:

<http://www.metowe.com/aboutus/philosophy.php>.

Mrs. Taylor, the vocal music teacher is implementing the “Me to We” theme for the Spring Musical, and Mrs. Langilier, the band teacher, is helping students to compose songs and perform about Free the Children.

#### ***Sister School in Asia***

On top of everything, Iles has just formed a partnership with a local business man to create a connection with a village in China. They hope to start a pen-pal exchange with their sister community, do exchanges, and students at Iles have even started learning the local language!

Believe it or not, Ms. Frachey and another superstar teacher, Mr. McParland, are facilitating Iles students as authors, and hope to publish a book with The Trevor Romain Company about their Free the Children story. It is about no matter how small or insignificant someone may feel you can make a BIG difference in the world through small acts done with great compassion.

In spite of their various challenges, Ms. Frachey says the most rewarding experience is the small acts of kindness shown by the students. For example, one day a 3rd grader handed her \$20 and told Ms. Frachey she wanted to donate it (her birthday money) to help their club or another time when a 5th grader decided to have a skating party for her birthday, and instead of presents, she collected items for the local women’s shelter.

Iles is living proof that when you set your mind to something – anything is truly possible. All you need to do is “plant the seed and then amazing things seem to happen.”

From all of us here at Free The Children - congratulations to Iles for their incredibly inspiring devotion to social change!

## Health News

By Mrs. Val Rogers, RN

### HEALTH UPDATE

#### LICE

Lice have always been a problem in schools. By providing some facts about lice, we hope to gain your assistance to decrease the spread of this nuisance. Head lice are small parasites that live on the scalp. They lay eggs on the hair close to the scalp. These eggs hatch in 7-10 days continuing the cycle. Lice do not jump or fly. They are spread by direct contact with an infested person's head or by sharing objects such as hats, combs, pillows, towels, etc. Typically lice are detected when parents or teachers notice scratching. Controlling lice at school: District 186 has developed the following guidelines to deal with lice in schools.

Students with an active infestation of lice will be handled in a discreet and sensitive manner.

Students with active lice will be immediately isolated from uninfested students.

Children with live lice will be sent home. Parents will be contacted to provide immediate treatment.

The child with lice will be allowed to return to school after treatment has been given or they bring a note from a physician clearing them to return to school.

Parents should never re-treat with lice shampoos or conditioners more frequently than recommended on the product label. Misuse of these potentially toxic products is dangerous.

It is neither safe nor necessary to use pesticide shampoos or lotions to kill

lice. With some patience and the proper technique, a combination of safe shampooing with head lice shampoos and lice combing will eliminate head lice problems without exposing the child to the hazards of pesticides. Natural remedies are also available. In addition to lice treatment, combing hair to remove nits (eggs) is key to the success of getting rid of lice.

Parents who continue to send their children to school without following a treatment procedure will be required to provide a letter from a physician or the Health Department. Students are excused one day only for absences related to lice. Parents who fail to send their children back to school in a reasonable time following treatment will be referred to the truancy officer.

Suggestions for home:

If lice are found on one family member, all family members should be checked. Ask your doctor or pharmacist before treating an infant or pregnant woman with lice shampoos. Comb the hair of the infested person every day for two weeks with a fine tooth comb. Only by removing all nits will you get rid of the lice infestation. All bed linens, towels, and clothes should be washed in hot water and dried in a hot dryer. Fabrics that cannot go in hot dryer and all stuffed animals should be tied in an airtight plastic bag for two weeks. Furniture and carpets must be thoroughly vacuumed. Car seats can also be vacuumed.

Prevention:

Remind your child not to share combs, brushes, hats, hair clips, headbands, headsets, helmets, clothing, stuffed animals, costumes, pillows or coats.

*If you have questions concerning lice you may call me at 525-3226.*

### PTO Events by Tracey Wobig, PTO President

The PTO officers send a huge THANK YOU to all our volunteers this year! We appreciate everyone; we couldn't do it without you!

Here's what's coming up for PTO; mark your calendar!

April 9 - Writer's Conference  
April 15 - Pizza Hut fundraiser  
April 26 - Teacher & Staff  
Appreciation Luncheon  
May 3-7 - Teacher  
Appreciation Week

## Chinese News at Iles

by Mr. Damon McParand,  
Chinese Instructor

The students have done a wonderful job learning the characters for their numbers in Chinese. If you like, I created some Chinese playing cards that are posted on my website. Print off a set and play some card games with your child to help them learn their number characters even better. There are no face cards. The first sheet goes from one to ten and the next sheet has the characters for one hundred, a thousand and ten thousand. Dragons are the highest cards. The sixth graders are doing some work with Chinese calligraphy. Over the course of the fourth quarter I will try to introduce Chinese chess to the students.

## 2010 Old Capitol Art Fair

Hi parents! Volunteers are needed for this year's Springfield Old Capitol Art Fair (SOCAF) May 15-16, 2010!! If you've ever been to SOCAF, you know how exciting it is and can see that it takes several folks to make it happen. The 2 to 4 hour shifts are VERY simple - includes checking in artist, taking count of their children's tent donations, walking the donations to the children's tent sorting area, selling t-shirts, relieving artists for breaks. This is a great way to gain exposure to local artists and network with folks in and around Springfield! We welcome teenagers as well. If you can assist, please send an e-mail to [sbroth1995@yahoo.com](mailto:sbroth1995@yahoo.com).

Thank you for your consideration and have a beautiful day!

## Notice to all Parents:

The **last day** to retrieve lost and found items is April 16th. Please stop by to claim your belongings.

### ALSO:

Your child **cannot** be dropped off at school until 8:05 a.m.!

SCOPE is available to students who need to come to school before 8:05. The number for SCOPE is 525-3309.